

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR:** Chair Phyllis J. Randall and Members  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority

**FROM:** Monica Backmon, Chief Executive Officer

**DATE:** January 5, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Letter of Endorsement for Prince William County's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Program Application

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1. **Purpose.** To seek Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) approval of the letter of endorsement for Prince William County's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program application.
2. **Suggested Motion:** *I move Authority approval of the letter of endorsement for Prince William County's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity program application.*
3. **Background:** As is customary among NVTA partnerships, requests for the Authority's endorsement are received from regional agencies and local jurisdictions embraced by the Authority. To help fund their transportation projects, these regional agencies and local jurisdictions pursue sources of funding through federal grants and programs. NVTA has received a request for endorsement from Prince William County on their application under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant.

**A. Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Discretionary Grant**  
The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. RAISE was formerly known as BUILD and TIGER.

The RAISE program enables the USDOT to achieve national objectives, examining initiatives that promise to invest in road, rail, transit, and port projects on their merits to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested.

**RAISE Program Criteria:**

Projects for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria which includes safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, opportunity, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. Within these criteria, the Department is encouraging applicants to consider how their projects can address climate change, ensure racial equity, and remove barriers to opportunity as well as create workforce development opportunities.

- The 2023 Notice of Funding builds on the success of the RAISE program by refining the rating rubric and continuing to give priority to safety, environmental sustainability, mobility and community connectivity, and quality of life.
- Half of the funding will go to projects in rural areas, and half of the funding will go to projects in urban areas. At least \$15 million in funding is guaranteed to go towards projects located in Areas of Persistent Poverty or Histology Disadvantaged Communities, and projects located in these areas will be eligible for up to 100 percent federal cost share, as directed by Congress in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

#### **4. Project Scope Under Prince William County's RAISE Application**

Prince William County is pursuing funding through the RAISE grant program for their Minnieville Road/Prince William Parkway Interchange project. The interchange is a high priority local project that will construct a Single Point Urban Interchange at the intersection to provide significant congestion reduction and safety and accessibility benefits to facilitate multimodal connectivity to the region. In addition to improving vehicle operations, the project will construct a sidewalk and shared use path facility for pedestrians and bicycle transportation and improve transit travel time reliability for OmniRide local bus service. The project is currently in design and has approximately \$13.5 million in NVTA Local Revenue (30%).

#### **Attachments:**

- A.** Prince William County Request for Endorsement Letter
- B.** Draft Letter of Endorsement for Prince William County's RAISE Application



December 12, 2022

Monica Backmon  
Chief Executive  
Officer  
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)  
3040 Williams Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22031

RE: Request for NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's RAISE Application for the Minnieville Road/Prince William Parkway Interchange

Ms. ~~Backmon,~~ *Monica*

I am writing to request NVTA's endorsement of Prince William County's application for funding consideration under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant (RAISE) Program for the Minnieville Road/Prince William Parkway Interchange. This interchange a high priority local project that will provide significant congestion reduction and multimodal connectivity benefits to the region.

The Minnieville Road/Prince William Parkway Interchange has been adopted in NVTA's long range plan TransAction (ID 279) and has been previously endorsed by the Authority for application for federal discretionary grant funding. The project consists of constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange at the intersection that will provide significant congestion, safety, and accessibility benefits, with minimal right-of-way impact to facilitate an approved transit-oriented mixed-use development. In addition to improving vehicle operations, the project will construct sidewalk and shared use path facilities for pedestrian and bicycle transportation and improve transit travel time reliability for OmniRide local bus service.

The project is currently in design and has a planning level cost estimate of \$70 million. Approximately \$13.5 million in NVTA 30% local funds and federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds has been allocated to the project. Federal funding through the RAISE program would greatly facilitate construction of this and we thank you for your time and assistance with this request. If you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me at (703) 792-6825.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Canizales", written over a white background.

Ricardo Canizales  
Director of Transportation



**Northern Virginia Transportation Authority**  
*The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia*

January 12, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: NVTA Endorsement of Prince William County's RAISE Grant Program Application

Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), I am pleased to express our full support of the Prince William County's 2023 RAISE grant program application. Funding from this grant will allow the County to improve safety and accessibility benefits while providing significant congestion reduction.

The Minnieville Road/Prince William Parkway Interchange ("Project") consists of constructing a Single Point Urban Interchange at the intersection that will provide significant congestion, safety, and accessibility benefits with minimal right-of-way impact. This will facilitate a transit-oriented mixed-use development to provide multimodal connectivity benefits to the Northern Virginia region. In addition to improving vehicle operations, the project will construct a sidewalk and shared use path facility for pedestrians and bicycle transportation and improve transit travel time reliability for OmniRide local bus service.

Federal funding through the RAISE program would greatly facilitate construction of the Project to provide benefits to Prince William County citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of the Prince William County's RAISE grant program application as well as your time and attention.

Best Regards,

Phyllis J. Randall  
Chair

cc: The Honorable Ann Wheeler, Chair of Prince William County Government  
Ricardo Canizales, Director of Transportation, Prince William County  
Monica Backmon, NVTA Chief Executive Officer